

Docket # 71303

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

**[0001]** This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of German patent application DE 203 03 168.7 filed 27/Feb./2003 the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

**[0002]** The present invention pertains to an insulating vessel, especially for holding beverages, comprising a housing with an additional inner holding container as well as with a closable opening.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

**[0003]** Many different embodiments of devices of this type are known. There is a shortcoming that the space requirement is the same in the filled and empty states of the insulating

vessel. It appears to be disadvantageous, especially when placed into backpacks and carrying bags, that the necessary space requirement is occupied needlessly in the empty state and cannot be utilized for other purposes.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] An object of the present invention is to reduce the space requirement for the insulating vessel, especially in the empty state for transportation purposes, and also for storage, in a simple manner.

[0005] This object is accomplished according to the present invention by the housing being formed by a plurality of housing parts engaging each other in a telescopic manner and by the inner holding container being formed as a collapsible pouch element.

[0006] It is possible as a result to use the insulating vessel once for a volume to be held in the extended position, and at another time, to push the vessel together to a minimum after emptying. The pouch element adapts itself correspondingly in the pushed-together or compact position, and is then again available with its entire holding volume in the extended state.

[0007] In an advantageous embodiment, the lower housing part is designed as a cup-like basic element, which accommodates the other associated housing parts, which engage each other in a tubular manner, in the pushed-together state.

[0008] Furthermore, it is proposed for the fixation that the individual parts of the housing be able to be coupled with one another via locking elements in the extended position.

[0009] To improve insulation, it is proposed that the pouch element be provided with a preferably metal-coated insulating foil. The pouch element may also have a multilayer design, in

which case a lattice structure, which is especially flexible, is arranged between two foil layers. This multilayer design leads to good insulating action along with high stability. Capron or Mylar may be used as the material for the outer foil layers. However, it is also possible to use another material with similar properties. However, the material of the outer foil layers should always be a material approved for contact with foods.

[0010] Furthermore, provisions are made for the parts of the housing to be provided with an inner insulating layer. The parts of the housing may also have a double-walled design. An insulating layer, especially a vacuum insulating layer, is preferably provided in this case.

[0011] To carry out the setting in the individual positions, it is proposed that an auxiliary pull-out element be arranged in the area of the opening in the housing part located at the top.

[0012] Provisions are made, furthermore, for the opening to be able to be closed with a lockable drinking cup as a pull-out aid.

[0013] The various features of novelty which characterize the invention are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and specific objects attained by its uses, reference is made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which a preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] Figure 1 shows a side view of an insulating vessel with its largest holding volume;

[0015] Figure 2 shows a side view according to Figure 1 with the collapsible pouch

element being accommodated;

[0016]        Figure 3        shows a side view of the insulating vessel in the pushed-together state; and

[0017]        Figure 4        shows a sectional view according to Figure 3.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0018]        In the embodiment being shown, the housing 1 is formed by a plurality of housing parts 2, 3, 4, 5, which engage each other in a telescopic manner. The lower housing part accommodates here as the cup element the tubularly designed housing parts 3, 4 and 5 in the pushed-together position, and the housing part 5 has an opening 7, which can be closed by means of a closing plug 6.

[0019]        A collapsible pouch element 8, starting from the opening 7, is arranged as the inner holding container. The pouch element 8 adapts itself correspondingly in the pushed-together position.

[0020]        It is, of course, possible to lock the individual housing parts 2, 3, 4, 5 in the extended position by means of elements which are not shown in greater detail. It is also conceivable for the holding container to be arranged replaceably.

[0021]        While specific embodiments of the invention have been shown and described in detail to illustrate the application of the principles of the invention, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied otherwise without departing from such principles.

### List of Reference Numbers

- 1     Housing
- 2     Housing part
- 3     Housing part
- 4     Housing part
- 5     Housing part
- 6     Closing plug
- 7     Opening
- 8     Pouch element